for want of duly sanctioned estimates. The president has since renewed his application and the question of giving a grant in the current year is under consideration.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I enquire whether the sanction of Rs. 15,000 for which application was made in 1928 is still under consideration ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" That application did not come in time. It is being considered in connexion with the budget."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Will it be taken up by the Public Works Department ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Not as at present advised."

Religious and Charitable Endowments

Provincialization of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board.

*234 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have considered the question of meeting from Provincial funds the entire expenses of the administration of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board ;

(b) whether they propose to strengthen the staff of the Board ; and

(c) when the Amending Bill forwarded by the Board will be introduced into the Council ?

A.—(a) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

(b) Yes, for collection work.

(c) The hon. Member is referred to my answer to Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar's question No. 67.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know whether the answer given to clause (a) of this question refers to the appointments made by the Government already or does it relate to future appointments only ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The whole question with regard to the functions of the Board and the question of provincializing the administration is still under consideration."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know whether the Council will be consulted before Government pass their orders ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know what is the proposed strength of the staff, what are the financial commitments, and how the Government propose to meet those financial commitments in view of the crippled financial state of the Board ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Notice Sir."

Mr. A. RANAGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know what staff is proposed to be strengthened ? Is it the addition of four Commissioners or the addition of Inspectors ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" It is proposed to strengthen the district staff."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to clause (c) of the question, may I know whether the Bill will be introduced before the end of this year ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I cannot say, Sir."

Excise

Alleged false cases conducted under the Abkari Act.

* 235 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have received complaints or are aware that a large number of cases under the Abkari Act are concocted against innocent persons in order to cover the large amount of blackmailing and corruption that exists among the subordinate officers of the departments ;

(b) whether in order to reduce such alleged false cases Government have made the experiment of trial of such offences by panchayat courts with jurisdiction over the villages in which the offences were committed ; and

(c) what other steps Government have taken or propose to take to reduce the alleged false cases under the Abkari Act ?

A.—(a) The Government have not received complaints of the kind referred to and are not aware that the facts are as suggested.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Mr. J. A SALDANHA :—" May I enquire why the hon. Minister says in answer to clause (a) that the facts are not as suggested ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Because we enquired of the authorities and they said they had not received such complaints."

Steps taken towards prohibition in this Presidency.

* 236 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : With reference to my question No. 1932 answered on 27th March 1929, will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) what the several steps are which have been taken by Government towards prohibition in this Presidency ; and

(b) what measures have been adopted for closing foreign liquor shops in the several taluks mentioned in the answer during the last six years and are being taken at present ?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answers given to clauses (b) and (c) of question No. 1932 on 27th March 1929 and to G.O. No. 1597, P.H., dated 26th June 1929, which has been published.

(b) The foreign liquor shops in the Shiyali, Tirutturaippundi and Tiruvadanai taluks have been closed with effect from 1st April 1929.